



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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Nov. 10, 2004

## MAN ADMITS HE WAS CRACK COCAINE DELIVERY BOY FOR SOUTHEAST KANSAS DRUG RING

KANSAS CITY, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Wendell Martin**, 24, Parsons, pleaded guilty to one count of distributing crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of St. Patrick's School, a private elementary school in Parsons, Kan.

Martin entered the plea Nov. 8 before U.S. District Judge Thomas Van Bebber in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan.

In his plea, Martin admitted that beginning in January 1999 he and others engaged in distributing crack cocaine in southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri. The group obtained large quantities of cocaine powder and then manufactured crack cocaine or sometimes purchased large quantities of crack cocaine and sold it in smaller quantities.

Martin said his role in the drug trafficking organization was to distribute varying quantities of crack cocaine to lower level distributors and users of illegal drugs. He admitted selling \$500 worth of crack cocaine to an undercover agent of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation in the parking lot of a bar in Parsons, Kan. on July 30, 2002. The parking lot was within 1,000 feet of St. Patrick's School. Martin also admitted that when he was arrested June 6, 2003 in Winfield, Kan., officers found \$1,200 cash and 1.73 grams of crack cocaine in his pockets.

Sentencing is set for Jan. 31, 2005. Martin faces a maximum penalty of not less than one year and not more than 40 years in federal prison and a fine of \$2 million.

Melgren commended the work of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, the Coffeyville Police Department, the Winfield Police Department, the Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Labette County Attorney's Office and

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the Cowley County Attorney's Office in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.